DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
7700 ARLINGTON BOULEVARD
FALLS CHURCH VA 22042

Fellow Dental Corps Officers,

Happy 114th Birthday!

Since August 22, 1912, you and the generations of dental officers who came before you, have delivered world-class care with honor and distinction while charting a proud legacy across the Navy and Marine Corps. From our inception, you have remained steadfast in our core mission: ensuring the total dental readiness and optimal oral health of our nation's warfighters. For the last 114 years, there has never been a war, battle, or conflict in our nation's history where Navy dentists did not contribute to the operational readiness to fight and win.

This year, we also mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the September 11th attacks, a day that forever changed our world and issued a profound call to action for Navy Dentistry. When the Pentagon was struck, Navy dentists CAPT William Durm, CAPT Charles Turner, CAPT Gerald Santulli, CAPT Carol Walker, LCDR Trent Outhouse, and LT Sherma Saif did not hesitate. Working shoulder-to-shoulder with Tri-Service medical staff and civilian first responders, they performed triage, initiated life-saving IVs, and stabilized casualties. Remarkably, Navy dental personnel were involved in half of all casualty treatments at the Pentagon on September 11th.

This extraordinary response on that dark day underscores the frontline readiness and versatility at the heart of Navy Dentistry. In the decades since, you have continued to serve as force multipliers. Whether ashore, afloat, in war or times of peace, you remain foundational to our ability to win wars, deter aggression, and maintain freedom of the seas.

As this will be my final Dental Corps Birthday as your Chief, I want to express my deepest gratitude to the more than 1,300 active and reserve personnel as well as those who have had the distinction of serving in our corps. Thank you for your exemplary service and the meaningful contributions you make each day to our warfighters, beneficiaries, and nation at large.

Happy 114th Birthday, Shipmates. I am immensely proud of you and will always be honored to have served alongside you.

W. D. B

Rear Admiral W. D. Brafford
40th Chief of the Navy Dental Corps
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